

Lisa Cataldi

From: Elmwood Shell <elmwoodshell@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2021 2:04 PM
To: House Health and Human Services Committee
Subject: against flavored bans

Name: Riad Khoury

Bill#6396

AGAINST THE BILL NUMBER 6396

Flavored tobacco bans don't work, it will just push the demand for these products to black markets, illegal street sales, other states (NH). we as Retailers are the gatekeepers for tobacco products. We are the only ones checking IDs, face to face, and keeping age-restricted products out of the hands of kids.

Youth aren't smoking cigarettes or using smokeless tobacco. These are adult-preferred products. The only nicotine products they are using are flavored disposable vapes. We can address these products without overreaching into cigarettes and smokeless which they aren't buying.

It has been well documented that the federal government is taking action on vape and flavored tobacco. Let the agency with the most resources do their science-based work. This is not a policy that should be made by states. The Massachusetts ban has failed and Rhode Island would be wise not to follow.

These bans will affect our sales and the state economy, and will lead us and most of the retail stores to close and thousands of employees losing their jobs.

I am a smoker and I think that taking my cigarette away is against my freedom.

Thanks, for your understanding.

[ELMWOOD SHELL](#)

[\(P\) 401-272-0814](#)

[\(F\) 401-272-0839](#)